

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8714

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE EDITORIAL BLASTS US

1. SUMMARY: MINOR RIGHT-WING LISBON NEWSPAPER HAS SEVERELY
CRITICIZED US FOREIGN POLICY AND FAILURE TO SUPPORT VITAL
INTERESTS OF ALLIES. END SUMMARY

2. OCTOBER 31 EDITORIAL IN SMALL RIGHT-WING NEWSPAPER EPOCA
ENTITLED "METTERNICH'S COMPLAINTS" HAS ATTACKED US FOR
NARROW VIEW OF WORLD. EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY FORMER SALAZAR
CHIEF OF TV NEWS MANUEL MARIA MURIAS. MURIAS REMOVED BY
CAETANO IN 1969, BUT STILL HOLDS LESSER NON POLICY-MAKING
POSITION WITH PORTUGUESE TELEVISION. HIS VIEWS AS
EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITORIAL REPRESENT VIEWS OF MANY IN PORTUGAL,
CERTAINLY OF MANY ON THE RIGHT.

3. EDITORIAL BEGINS BY STATING THAT US DEPARTMENT OF
STATE IS "TEARFULLY COMPLAINING" ABOUT LACK OF SUPPORT
FROM ITS NATO ALLIES FOR ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY, AND
THAT ONCE AGAIN, AS IT ITS RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA
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AND VIETNAM, US FINDS ITSELF ISOLATED.

4. MURIAS GOES ON TO SAY THAT, IN SPITE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "METTERNICHIAN ABILITIES," US DIPLOMACY SINCE DULLES HAS BEEN "DISTRESSINGLY INEPT." AMERICA'S ALLIES, WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT THE US CONSIDERS ITS VITAL INTERESTS, PRETEND NOT TO UNDERSTAND. THEY REACT THIS WAY BECAUSE THE U.S., IN TURN, ALSO PRETENDS NOT TO UNDERSTAND MATTERS WHICH ITS ALLIES CONSIDER TO BE IN THEIR VITAL INTEREST.

5. EDITORIAL SAID US FORCED FRENCH FROM INDOCHINA, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA; DUTCH FROM INDONESIA; PREVENTED ENGLISH AND FRENCH FROM DEFENDING THEMSELVES WHEN NASSER NATIONALIZED THE SUEZ CANAL; AND REFUSES TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL ON ITS WARS IN AFRICA.

6. US FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT COHERENT IN TERMS OF REAL GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS. BASED ON LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY, IT IS APOSTOLIC AND REVOLUTIONARY, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS AFTER. WASHINGTON, "ALONG WITH ITS METTERNICH," DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THAT BY SUPPORTING LIKES OF GUINEA'S SEKOU TOURE IT IS ATTACKING PORTUGAL. WASHINGTON IS TOO DISTRACTED DIVIDING THE WORLD INTO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE; TOO BUSY WITH FALLACY OF A BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE, TOO BUSY DEALING DIRECTLY WITH MOSCOW, TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ITS ALLIES.

7. THE US. CONCLUDES EDITORIAL, IS NOW LAMENTING ITS STRAINED RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, BUT IT IS ONLY RECEIVING WHAT IT DESERVES.

8. COMMENT: EDITORIAL NOT A STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE SENTIMENT, BUT MANY PORTUGUESE, IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, PROBABLY WOULD AGREE WITH AT LEAST MAIN SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED. TEXT TOUCHED.

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